

March 2, 1984

LB 920

return postage, would be paid by the county. That has been eliminated so the fiscal note, in fact, will be adjusted to reflect that. I believe and it is my intent in introducing this legislation to make it easier for persons for whom it is difficult or impossible to get to the polls to vote. I agree with the elimination of any age or mileage provisions which originally appeared in the bill and now for those elderly persons for whom it is physically difficult to get around, it will be to...they will be able to utilize this absentee ballot. I know that Senator Higgins has some concerns about the use or misuse of this piece of legislation in connection with nursing homes. I have visited with her and she indicates and I have indicated to her that we will be addressing that before this reaches you on Select File. So at this time I would ask for the advancement of LB 920.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I certainly don't want to hold up the bill at this point but I do want to caution the members of the Legislature that we are taking out the notarization of absentee ballots and it seems to me we could very easily be making it so easy for people to vote that they don't...what we will do is go around to the homes for the aged and some other places and that is my great concern and then we will just say, well, you know, just sign this ballot for me. We will put it in an envelope and Pat Morehead will get the votes without even knowing who they are voting for.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead, did you wish to close?

SENATOR MOREHEAD: I would simply like to address Senator Peterson's concern and that is notarization especially for those people living abroad is extremely difficult and expensive. Mr. Beermann indicated that he had absolutely no problem with this because of the way that this could be checked in the office and I do understand Senator Peterson's concerns and along with Senator Higgins we will try to clarify that and tighten it up if they have any concerns in that area.